For the agriculture year 2007-08, sowing of Kharif crops is going on. As per the report received in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meeting held in the Ministry on 24.08.2007, the area coverage under rice is 31.9 million hectares compared to 32.3 million hectares for the corresponding period last year. The first advance estimates for 2007-08 of production of Kharif crops would be brought out in September. Wheat is a Rabi crop and its sowing will start in October, 2007. It is too early to give production assessment.

(b) To augment wheat stocks, Government has decided to import wheat. The Government of India has initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Rice, Wheat and Pulses, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS).

Relief package for distressed farmers

2022. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special relief packages for distressed farmers in various States have been sanctioned and distributed;

(b) if so, the details of the packages sanctioned;

(c) whether it is a fact that there have been delays in the distribution of relief packages; and

(d) if so, the details of funds so far distributed to each of the distressed districts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of India has approved a rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 identified suicide prone Districts of the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala. State-wise details of the rehabilitation package sanctioned is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Amount sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh	9650.55
Karnataka	2689.64
Kerala	765.24
Maharashtra	3873.26
	16978.69

The rehabilitation package is under implementation.

(c) No such report has been received trom the concerned State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.